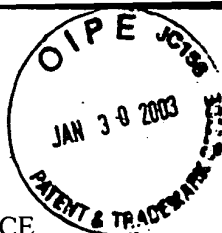




32692

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent
Case No.: 55243US009RECEIVED
JAN 31 2003
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

First Named Inventor: LODER, HARRY A.
 Application No.: 09/643333 Group Art Unit: 2874
 Filed: August 22, 2000 Examiner: Pak, Sung H
 Title: OPTICAL FIBER CONNECTOR SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:
 Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

January 23, 2003

Date

Signed by: Tom Sanders

#18/IDS
mk 2/25/03

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449 citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of each cited reference is also enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Under 37 CFR § 1.704(d), I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

23 January 2003

Date

By:

Yen Tong Florczak

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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
 3M Innovative Properties Company
 Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833